

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 10 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Meador in view of Chabas, further in view of Butterfield and Pasternak. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Meador is not a proper prior art reference under 35 USC 103(a). Specifically, Meador was filed on February 29, 2000, after the priority date of the instant application, namely, December 3, 1999. A verified English translation of the instant application is provided, as attached hereto. The Examiner is kindly requested to withdraw the rejection of record and pass this case to allowance.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.449122009700. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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